

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02
STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /067 W
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R 211618Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8407
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 15957

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: EC DIRECTIVE 78/50 ON IMMERSION CHILLING OF
POULTRYMEAT

REF: (A) FASTO CIR 386; (B) EC A-35

1. WE HAVE QUERIED OFFICIAL IN COMMISSION'S VETERINARY
DIVISION RE QUESTIONS POSTED IN REF A CONCERNING EC RULES
ON THE IMMERSION CHILLING OF POULTRYMEAT. CAUTIONING THAT
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER STAFF
MEMBERS STILL AWAY ON SUMMER HOLIDAYS, HE RESPONDED AS
FOLLOWS:

A. CAN DOMESTIC PRODUCERS MEET EC REQUIREMENTS BY
FEBRUARY 15, 1979 DEADLINE? OFFICIAL SAID THAT COMMISSION
HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY OR HEARD ANY REPORTS FROM
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COMMUNITY POULTRY PROCESSORS REGARDING INABILITY TO COMPLY
WITH IMPROVED IMMERSION CHILLING REQUIREMENTS CALLED FOR
BY EC DIRECTIVE 78/50 (REF B). ALSO, NO MEMBER STATE HAS
THUS FAR INFORMED THE COMMISSION OF ITS INTENTION TO SEEK
THE THREE AND ONE HALF YEAR DEROGATION PROVIDED FOR IN EC
DIRECTIVE 78/50. SUCH A DEROGATION, IF REQUESTED, WOULD
PERMIT MARKETING OF CARCASSES OBTAINED FROM IMMERSION

CHILLERS NOT MEETING DIRECTIVE REQUIREMENTS ONLY ON THE TERRITORY OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED. ALSO, ANY MEMBER STATE UTILIZING SUCH DEROGATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PERMIT IMPORTS OF SIMILARLY PROCESSED POULTRYMEAT (NOT MEETING NEW IMMERSION COOLING REQUIREMENTS) FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES OR THIRD COUNTRIES.

B. ANY CONCERN RE INCREASED WATER USE AND DISPOSAL PROBLEMS? THE COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AWARE OF ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN BY PROCESSORS REGARDING THE INCREASED USE OF WATER REQUIRED BY THE IMPROVED IMMERSION CHILLING PROCESS NOR ANY PROBLEMS CONCERNING DISPOSAL. OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT INDUSTRY WAS PREPARED TO CONTEND WITH PROBLEMS POSED BY DIRECTIVE BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT THEY WOULD RECEIVE (SEE PART E BELOW) AND BECAUSE IT WAS MADE QUITE CLEAR DURING DELIBERATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL THAT AN IMMERSION SYSTEM COULD BE RETAINED ONLY IF SUCH REQUIREMENTS WERE AGREED TO.

C. WHAT PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO COMPLY? OFFICIAL WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE WITHIN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES TO COMPLY WITH FEBRUARY 15, 1979 DEADLINE BUT HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS DATE WOULD BE MET.

D. ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE? NO INFORMATION ON UNCLASSIFIED

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COST PER PLANT OF COMPLIANCE.

E. IS GOVERNMENT PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC PROCESSORS? THE COMMUNITY HAS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FROM 25 TO 50 PERCENT OF THE COST BORNE BY PROCESSORS IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS DIRECTIVE. OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE FEOGA CONTRIBUTION WOULD LIKELY BE 50 PERCENT OF PROCESSOR COSTS IN MOST CASES. THE INITIAL FUNDS COULD COME FROM THE PROCESSOR HIMSELF OR THROUGH CHEAP LOANS OR GRANTS FROM MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS.

2. OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT EC DIRECTIVE 78/50 ALSO CALLS FOR THE COMMISSION TO SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 15, 1978 A STUDY AND POSSIBLE PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF USING IMPROVED IMMERSION SYSTEM WITHOUT THE IMMEDIATE FREEZING OR DEEP FREEZING OF CARCASSES NOW CALLED FOR. THE INTENT OF IMMEDIATE FREEZING PROVISION IS TO DECREASE THE RISK OF BACTERIA TAKEN INTO THE CARCASS DURING IMMERSION PROCESS FROM MULTIPLYING. THE INDUSTRY, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL, IS VERY ANXIOUS TO SEE THIS RESTRICTION LIFTED BECAUSE OF THE EXPENSE REQUIRED IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL FREEZING CAPACITY AND THE DESIRE

TO SELL CARCASSES COOLED BY IMMERSION IN FRESH, CHILLED
FORM. THE STUDY IS NOW UNDERWAY BUT OFFICIAL NOT AWARE
OF ANY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS. HINTON

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